

NRO-1



9 April 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Reconnaissance Office

SUBJECT: Special Procedures for Satellite Reconnaissance Missions

1. After three successive failures, it is gratifying that the most recent CORONA photographic reconnaissance mission was successfully carried out and high quality photographic material was obtained. The importance of this type of intelligence to our National security cannot be over-emphasized and it is essential that there be no repetition of the hiatus in this type of coverage such as has existed for the past three months.

2. Prior to this last successful CORONA launch, a number of measures were instituted to improve the quality control of all aspects of this particular operation. These measures included special inspection and systems checks designed to detect flaws or imperfections which might cause a mission failure. In view of the overriding importance of this type of intelligence, Secretary Gilpatric and I have agreed that the NRO will continue to employ the special measures and inspection procedures on all forthcoming flights in order to insure that every possibility of failure is minimized. We desire that action be taken accordingly.

DD/R (first draft)
JAM/WE (Second draft)
JAM/MSC (9 Apr 63)

John A. McGone
Director

- #1 and 2 - Addressee
- #3 - Dep. Secy. of Defense
- #4 - DCI Chrono
- #5 - DCI NRO file
- #6 - DD/R subject
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- #8 - ER

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NRO review(s)
completed.